

**MINUTES - Corrected**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**CHARLOTTE HARBOR**  
**COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Monday, May 7, 2012 – 11:00 a.m.**  
County Administration Building – Room 119  
18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte, FL 33948

**Members Present**

James Herston, *Chairman*  
Garland Wilson, *Vice Chairman*  
Grace Amodeo, *Secretary*  
Michael Haymans  
Charlotte Ventola

**Staff Present**

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch  
Debrah Forester, *Redevelopment Manager*  
Roxann Read, *Planner II*  
Elizabeth Spicer, *Event Planner*

**Members Absent**

Nathaniel Cooley  
Eddie Hale

**Guests**

Deputy Miller

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**I. Call to Order**

Chairman Herston called the May 7, 2012 meeting of the Charlotte Harbor Community Redevelopment Agency Advisory Committee to order at 11:02 a.m. in Room 119 of the Charlotte County Administration Building.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman Herston led the members and the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. Roll Call/Determination of Quorum**

Roll call was taken; Secretary Grace Amodeo confirmed a quorum was present.

**IV. Additions/Deletions to Agenda – None.**

**V. Approval of Minutes**

Roxann Read noted that a revision is needed under Old Business, KFC Site at Page 3. The 4<sup>th</sup> sentence should read: Community Development maybe recommending rezoning this site to Commercial. **A Motion was presented by Grace Amodeo, seconded by Jim Herston and unanimously approved to accept the Minutes of the April 2, 2012 Regular Meeting of the Charlotte Harbor Community Redevelopment Agency Advisory Committee as revised.**

**VI. Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Deutsch noted that at last month's meeting there was a question on the utilization of signs. He advised that technically the County is responsible for how signs are used. For brief periods of time there seems to be exceptions which may perhaps be for safety reasons. Shaun Cullinan, Charlotte County Zoning Official, added that Charlotte County does not allow snipe signs. He also noted that Code Enforcement is reactive to complaints that are called in. The County works with FDOT to enforce rules in its right-of-ways. Chairman Herston mentioned there have not been a lot of issues with signs in Charlotte Harbor.

**VII. Public Comments – None.**

**VIII. Development Review Report – None.**

**IX. Old Business**

Banner Update – Debrah Forester noted that the Committee had requested a reference on the banners, so an e-mail was included in the meeting packet from an organization that has installed the banners from the Dunbar's company. The Charlotte Harbor banner, which was presented to the CRA at last month's meeting, was displayed at the bridge dedication. Ms. Forester recognized Katherine Dunbar in the audience and asked the Committee if there were any questions for her. Ms. Dunbar noted she is trying to obtain the specs for the light poles but did not have the information at today's meeting. Ms. Dunbar commented that the bridge ceremony was very nice. She recorded the presentation and asked that it be shared with Mr. Loftus. Discussion followed regarding the possible locations of the banners and increasing the banner size. It was also suggested that perhaps Bayshore Park should have its own logo. Ms. Forester noted there is some money available under programming but she will talk with Elizabeth Spicer regarding fund raising. Ms. Forester will also talk with Community Services regarding a logo for Bayshore Park.

Bayshore Live Oak Park Update – Andy Stevens met with Debrah Forester at Bayshore Park to discuss playground equipment. Mr. Stevens advised that budget money is available this year for playground equipment, including permitting and installation. Planned equipment includes multi-faceted slides and a climbing wall. In Fiscal Year 2013 there is acquisition money for parking and pedestrian connections. The Committee will be asked to review the proposed site plan in the future. It was suggested that discussion on a Logo for Bayshore Live Oak Park be placed on June's agenda. Elizabeth Spicer suggested the language on the existing Charlotte Harbor logo be eliminated and used for the park's logo.

Sign Code Review – Shaun Cullinan gave a brief overview of the differences between the County's sign codes and those in the Charlotte Harbor CRA. Essentially, the County's code allows a higher amount of both primary and additional signage than the CRA. Discussion followed and included:

- US41 businesses are in competition with other businesses within the County so the CRA may be hurting its businesses.
- US41 Corridor should conform but not necessarily in the NBR walkable areas.
- Buddy Braselton can be called with sign questions.
- The consensus of the Committee was to keep the sign code as written.

Power of Ten – Bayshore Live Oak Park – This list was included in the meeting packet. Ms. Forester noted the Committee previously requested the Power of Ten be reviewed and discussed. Ms. Forester noted the bench project has been accomplished. The Committee confirmed the remaining items on the list and asked Elizabeth to continue with the next item.

There is a kayak/canoe vendor near Portofino's but visibility needs to be improved. Elizabeth Spicer requested a tide chart be posted for informational purposes. There is a vendor from the Port Charlotte Beach Complex who is interested in expanding. A butterfly garden would need irrigation and maintenance. Parking funds are available in Fiscal Year 2013. Telescopes on the 2nd floor of pavilion could be possible with pay per view; each telescope would cost about \$1,500. Discussion followed regarding a butterfly garden. Ms. Spicer noted the butterfly garden at the Beach Complex is maintained by volunteers. Ms. Spicer suggested gravel and signage be added at the kayak launch so the access path can be distinguished. Jim Herston asked Ms. Spicer to contact the garden club volunteers to see if they would be interested in maintaining a butterfly garden at Bayshore Park.

Bayshore Live Oak Park Update – Elizabeth Spicer’s report and a list of activities for the coming year was included in the meeting packet. Ms. Spicer noted there were very few complaints noted on the event survey forms. There was discussion about increasing the event booth cost up to \$30 from \$21, including tax. Advertising issues have been resolved and things should get better. Movies in the park will begin in October. Ms. Spicer reviewed upcoming events, including a fishing tournament around Father’s Day. The list of movies selected for viewing was reviewed. Mr. Cooley suggested changing the December movie to Polar Express. Ms. Spicer will make that change.

Harbor Walk Update – Debrah Forester noted a letter was sent to FDOT for permission to begin the project with reimbursement in 2014. FDOT is unable to approve this request because at a national level the transportation bill which funds the project has not yet been approved. An extension of the existing bill is expected but approval of a new transportation bill will probably not be done until after the election. Staff is looking for direction. Discussion included looking to see what can be accomplished in Phase 1 without reimbursement; loan from County with payment from future TIF; and the use of Marine Advisory funds. The consensus of the Committee was to move forward obtaining permits but then wait on spending money so not to jeopardize future FDOT reimbursements. This item should be included as an update on the July agenda and staff will continue to monitor the status of the national transportation bill.

Work Plan Update – A copy of the Charlotte Harbor CRA Work Plan was distributed at the start of this meeting. Ms. Forester summarized the Plan noting the need to generate new development so the tax increments will grow. Ms. Forester reported there are no funds available which are not allocated to a project. She is hopeful that some projects will come in less than budget estimates.

**X. New Business**

July 2 Meeting – Grace Amodeo asked if the July meeting could be changed to July 9. Charlotte Ventola noted she will not be available on either date. The Committee agreed to move the meeting date to July 9. Staff will look for room availability.

Business Incentives – Information about the Brownfield program was included in the meeting packet. Ms. Forester suggested this program be used in Whidden Park. Property owners would be notified and have the option to participate. Another business opportunity is the tax rebate. The County has incentives for targeted industries but retail businesses and hotels are not a targeted industry. Manufacturing in Whidden Park could qualify for county incentives. The Committee agreed that development of incentives is important and directed staff to continue to develop options.

Charlotte Harbor - 150 Years Old – Ms. Forester will be attending a meeting at the Historical Center later this week and asked the Committee if they were interested in partnering on a celebration event. Suggestions included: have a beer and wine festival at that time or a ceremony similar to the recent bridge dedication. Ms. Forester will report back to the Committee next month.

**XI. Correspondence/Communications – The following information was forwarded with the meeting packet:**

- Minutes from Punta Gorda CRA meeting of April 4, 2012
- Bridge Dedication Article

**XII. Public Comments**

Evelyn Loeffler stated improving the kayak area is a good idea and suggested Ms. Spicer include the number of people attending events in her monthly report.

Raul Anchia asked about the zoning of the property on the corner of Sibley Bay & Seneca; would a bed and breakfast be allowed. Mr. Anchia was given Buddy Braselton's phone number. It was also mentioned that properties on Bayshore lend themselves to small bed and breakfast establishments; will it be zoned NBR? Mr. Anchia was advised that the Committee decided to have the NBR zoning north of Seneca. Discussion followed about rezoning Bayshore to NBR.

Evelyn Loeffler stated that if you want to improve the area, zoning on Bayshore should be NBR. Single family residents are not flourishing at this time and cannot make the impact NBR could. NBR will help forward movement.

**XIII. Staff Comments – None.**

**XIV. Attorney Comments – Derek Rooney was not present at this time.**

**XV. Member Comments**

Grace Amodeo asked about the trees on Parmley which were a concern brought up during the Walkability Survey. Ms. Forester reported that David Milligan and Extension Services looked at trees. The fig is in a sable palm and not the oak. The oak tree can be saved. The County is looking for a tree trimmer through the County process.

Jim Herston noted the Committee needs to keep thinking about the entire CRA and not just the Bayshore Park area. Whidden Park needs a project.

**XVI. Next Meeting Date**

The next regular meeting of the Charlotte Harbor Community Redevelopment Agency Advisory Committee will be held on **Monday, June 4, 2012 at 11 a.m. in Room 119 of the Charlotte County Administration Center.**

**XVII. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting **ADJOURNED** at 1:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Grace E. Amodeo, Secretary  
/kmk

Approved: 6/4/12